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The UNECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 10-year review of Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing +10) will be held on 14-15 December, in Conference Room XIX, Palais des Nations

Ten years after the Beijing Platform for Action was adopted at the Fourth Conference on Women, has the status of women really changed? Are women better off in Europe, North America, Russia and Central Asia? The meeting, a region-wide event which will draw on the past experiences of the UNECE Regional Preparatory Meetings for Beijing (Vienna, November 1994) and Beijing +5 (Geneva, January 2000), will address these questions under the main themes of women and economy; institutional mechanisms to promote gender equality; and trafficking in the context of migratory movements. It will highlight good practices and remaining challenges in these key areas, and will have an opportunity to discuss emerging issues in the context of the changing socio-economic and geopolitical situation in the region.

The outcome of the meeting, in the form of Chairperson's conclusions, will constitute the contribution of the UNECE region to the global 10-year Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, to take place at a special session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, March 2005).

For more information contact Ewa Ruminska-Zimny (ewa.zimny@unece.org).

An *NGO Forum* on *12-13 December* is organized by the NGO Working Group for Women in the UNECE region. The closing session of the NGO Forum will be held at 3 pm in Conference Room XIX.

Property rights for the poor: a global perspective

The Land for Development Programme (LFDP), launched by UNECE last year at the "The First European Real Estate Summit", underlines the need for holistic approaches to the development of land markets and the well-functioning of a number of interdependent factors, including an effective land management system, an open system for trading and commercializing land and a legal and institutional mechanism for protecting property rights. Such a system is the indispensable basis for sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

Presidential Award

The President of Italy, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, has awarded the Land for Development Programme the Silver Medal of the Italian Republic, in recognition of the successful cooperation between UNECE and Tecnoborsa in promoting the Programme.

The Silver Medal will be handed over to the UNECE Executive Secretary, Brigita Schmögnerová, on the occasion of the opening of the 3rd Land for Development Programme (LFDP) Forum, organized under the auspices of the Real Estate Advisory Group (REAG) in Rome on 13-14 December.

Development Goal on poverty reduction. The few assets held by the poor – land, dwellings, different types of small-scale economic activities – are often not securely in their possession. They have houses but not titles, crops but not deeds, businesses but not statues of incorporation. By extending property rights to the poor and giving them legal protection over their houses, land and economic activities, they could turn

these assets into a legal form which could leverage capital and credit.

The 3rd Land for Development Programme (LFDP) Forum will focus on the global experience of making property rights accessible to the poor. The

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To address the challenge of designing and implementing an action-oriented programme to give meaningful property rights to the poor, UNECE has proposed setting up a High-level Commission on Property Rights for the Poor to prepare a toolkit for policy makers. This toolkit will help practitioners to implement a strategy of legal empowerment of the

poor that would contribute directly and indirectly to poverty alleviation. The Forum will highlight the key issues and action plans that will be analyzed by the proposed High-level Commission.

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It's just happened...

TIR Seminar in Pakistan

On 30 November a seminar on the TIR Convention was held in Karachi (Pakistan) organized by the UNECE, the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the Pakistan Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce and National Trade (ICC Pakistan), the National Transport Facilitation Committee (NTTFC), supported by the Ministry of Commerce and the Trade and Transport Facilitation Project (TTFP) supported by UNCTAD and the World Bank. Eighty people from a cross-section of Government agencies and business organizations participated in the seminar. Mr. R. Bhatti, Member Customs of the Central Board of Revenue (CBR) and Head of Pakistan Customs was the Chief Guest.



The purpose of the Seminar was to increase the awareness of the Pakistani authorities and private sector participants about the TIR Convention, describe the roles and responsibilities of both the public and the private sector, and to mark the follow-up steps in order for Pakistan to become a Contracting Party and implement the TIR Convention as soon as possible. Pakistan is preparing to submit an instrument of accession to join the TIR Convention, thereby becoming the 66th Contracting Party to the Convention.

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Coming up soon...

December

- 13 NGO Thematic Workshop on Institutional Mechanisms Beijing +10, NGO Forum
- 14-15 Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 10-year Review of Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action
- 13-14 Seminar on the Role of Ecosystems as Water Suppliers
- 15 Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management
- 15-17 Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Facts and figures:

**Number of Government Ministers by Sex
Selected UNECE Countries**

Country	1995		2001	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Armenia	0	26	0	21
Austria	2 ¹	11 ¹	4 ²	7 ²
Croatia	2	18	2	17
Cyprus ⁴	1	10	...	...
Czech Republic	...	...	0	17
Estonia	2	13	2	13
Finland	7	11	7	11
Georgia	...	...	2 ²	16 ²
Hungary	...	...	3 ³	12 ³
Iceland	1	9	3	9
Ireland	2	13	3	12
Kyrgyzstan	...	...	2	12
Latvia	2	26	2	13
Lithuania	1	19	3	10
Moldova, Republic of	...	19	...	15
Netherlands	4	10	4	11
Norway	8	11	8	11
Romania	...	...	5	16
Slovenia	2	16	3	13
Spain	3	13	3	14
Turkey	2	32	0	36
United Kingdom	11	97	34	79

Notes
¹ 1994
² 2000
³ 2002
⁴ Government-controlled area

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Source: UNECE Gender Statistics Database